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## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

COUNTRY	USSR (Azerbaydzhan SSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Security in the Soviet Border Guard Troops	DATE DISTR.	4 May 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI	#	AEC				
(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)														

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REPORT [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY USSR (Azerbaydzhan SSR)

DATE DISTR. 4 Mar. 1955

SUBJECT Security in the Soviet Border Guard Troops

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Security Duties

2. The primary mission or security duty [REDACTED] was to guard a specific sector on the USSR/Iran border which had been assigned to the unit. 1 Border guard personnel carried no identification other than their service record [REDACTED] EM often neglected to carry the service record with them. The local population had special passes which enabled them to visit the zastava frequently, sometimes even daily, in order to sell fresh fruit and vegetables. [REDACTED] the forbidden zone (zapretnaya zona) extended from the border to a line 15 km inland. To enter this area, the population also needed special passes. Further inland, at a distance of 25 to 30 km, was the "pogranichnaya polosa" or the area beside the border.

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To enter this area, special MVD passes were necessary. [ ] knew of two control or checking points (kontrolno-propusknoy punkt) which were for the purpose of checking the documents of persons traveling along the Baku - Lenkoran' - Astara road. One was about five to six kilometers north of Lenkoran' and the second was about 25 km south of Lenkoran'. These points were manned by border guard personnel of the 44th Border Guard Otryad or its subordinate units, presumably by personnel from the zastavy or komendatury in the sectors where these control points were located. Astara was a legal border crossing point into Iran. [ ]

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3. [ ] two border violations occurred; however, [ ] did not [ ] participate in the intercepting or the handling of the border violators. The first violation occurred some time in January 1953 when an Iranian woman and child crossed over to the USSR. The second violation occurred in February 1953 when three Iranian women and five children were brought to the zastava headquarters by border guard patrols; both violations occurred at night. In both cases, the zastava CO interrogated the border crossers and then sent them on to the headquarters of the 44th Border Guard Otryad in Lenkoran' under escort.

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#### Indigenous Employees

4. [ ] zastava employed only one local Azerbaydzhan woman as a laundress. Occasionally, the zastavy and komendatury hired local help for cutting wood.

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5.

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#### Other Security Forces

6. In Lenkoran', [ ] a few MVD interior troops [ ] These troops were guarding the prison in Lenkoran' and escorting prisoners. [ ]

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7. [ ] regular militia (city police) in Lenkoran'. [ ] members of the militia and some of the MVD prison-escorts and guards were chosen from persons who had served their period of obligatory military service and who were members of the Komsomol or had Communist Party affiliations, either as members or prospective members. [ ]

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[ ] border guard troops could only be arrested by border guard patrols or by the militia.

#### Censorship

8. All incoming and outgoing mail was subject to censorship. The censoring was done at Lenkoran' but not at the komendatura or at the zastava. [ ] border guard trainees were warned by the CO of the Basic Training Group of the 44th Border Guard Otryad not to complain in their letters home about the food or the treatment during basic training. The incoming letters all bore the stamp "inspected by military censorship" on the envelope and the date. [ ] all letters went through some

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sort of censorship but none of [ ] those of [ ] border guard troops [ ] ever showed any visible results of such censorship. The contents of letters received [ ] were never tampered with. Border guard troops were warned not to write about their unit designation, poor food, military secrets, etc.

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Photographs

9. All border guard troops were allowed to have cameras and to take photographs. There were no special facilities provided for developing film but EM did this themselves, even at the zastava. One of the sergeants at [ ] zastava knew how to develop film.

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Document-Check Patrols

10. [ ] only familiar with patrols conducted by border guard personnel at the zastava level. This personnel checked the documents of local inhabitants three to four times a month.

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11. [ ] this type of detail was usually composed of one sergeant and one soldier. [ ] their first step was to present themselves at the local village council (selsovet) where they procured necessary information concerning the local population.

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After that, the patrol probably went from house to house where each resident was required to show his identity document (passport) with a special cachet or a special pass which allowed him to live in a border area.

12. Permanent residents of border areas zones No. 1 (forbidden zone) and No. 2 (inland border zone) had a large square cachet in their identity documents indicating the number of the zone in which the person lived. [ ] saw one of these cachets only from a distance when other soldiers were shown how to check documents. [ ] remembered this detail from a lecture given during [ ] training course. During the period [ ] basic training proficiency examination [ ] border guard trainees were sent outside Lenkoran' and ordered to take positions on the highway to Baku. [ ] and one man were concealed in nearby bushes while [ ] two remained on the highway under the supervision of a junior sergeant who was in charge of the training squad. The junior sergeant ordered the trainees to stop all persons and passing vehicles and to check to see if each individual had the proper border zone pass or stamp in their identity documents. The [ ] trainees actually stopped several cars and ordered the passengers to produce their identity documents or passport and passes. Prior to that time, the trainees had been told that all persons from Lenkoran' had to produce a stamp bearing the number "2" because Lenkoran' was included in that border zone. The trainees were then shown one of these stamps [ ] sketched below [ ]

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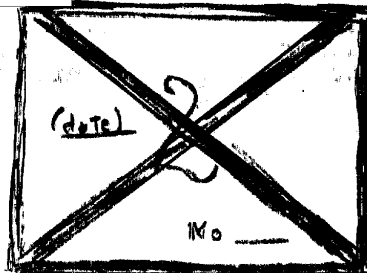
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13. [ ] the date, number, and color of the border zone cachets were changed frequently but [ ] the form and shape remained the same [ ]

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14. [ ] during this test, [ ] the [ ] trainees stopped two women and two men leaving the town to go to a neighboring forest to collect wood; these persons had no documents but the sergeant ordered them released without further ado. If a person travelled on the basis of TDY (komandirovochnoye svidetel'stvo), that person was obliged to show his identity document and border-zone pass on which the number of the TDY was shown. [ ] a border zone pass was a printed form usually issued by the MVD through the militia. In border zone No. 2, this pass was a sheet of paper folded in half. The second page (on the left, inside) contained personal data. A stamp was affixed on the third page (on the right, inside). Most passes [ ] were white. Regarding the square stamp affixed to the pass, [ ] the number and date of issuance had to be written in ink; however, [ ] was not sure whether the date was in the upper left corner and the number was in the lower right corner, or vice versa. [ ] did not know whether the number shown on this stamp was composed of arabic numerals only or whether there was also a letter indicator. [ ] the bearer's photograph was affixed to the pass of one of the persons checked by him. This person was presumably a temporary visitor in the border area. Generally, the passes of permanent border zone residents did not contain a photograph. [ ] the trainees did not stop military vehicles but were empowered to check the identity cards or other personal documents of military personnel.

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#### Civilian Clothes for Border Guard Duty

16. [ ] never saw any border guard troops in civilian clothes except in Lenkoran'. There [ ] border guard officers and re-enlistees wearing civilian clothes off-duty. According to border guard regulations and instructions, border guard personnel could be ordered to wear civilian clothes to look like local border zone civilian residents for the purpose of accomplishing specific missions, i.e., finding and arresting illegal border crossers.

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Foreign Broadcasts

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17. [redacted] in

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Michurinsk (N 52-54, E 40-30) [redacted] listened to Voice of America broadcasts in 1951. Apparently, reception was good and [redacted] quoted the neighbor as saying that he had heard the "real truth" in these broadcasts.

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